



ARKANSAS'S FOREST FACTS

"The Natural State"

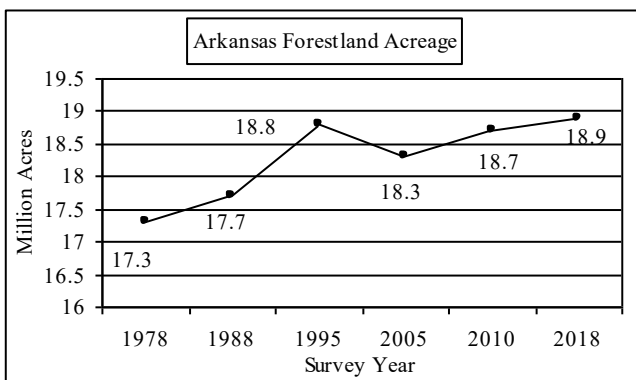


The 2018 Forest Survey

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program of the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station has been conducting statewide periodic timber surveys since the 1950s. In 1999, the Arkansas Forestry Commission joined the FIA program and began the first ever annual survey for the state. The information for this current survey is derived from satellite imagery and certified foresters collecting timber measurements from over 4,000 permanent research plots.

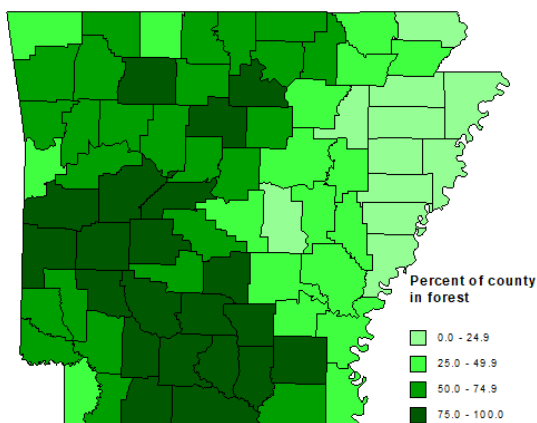
Forestland Area

Arkansas's forests cover 18.9 million acres or 56 percent of the State and contain 11.97 billion trees. During the 50's and 60's Arkansas lost almost 20 percent of its forestland. Since 1978, forestland has increased by 1.6 million acres.



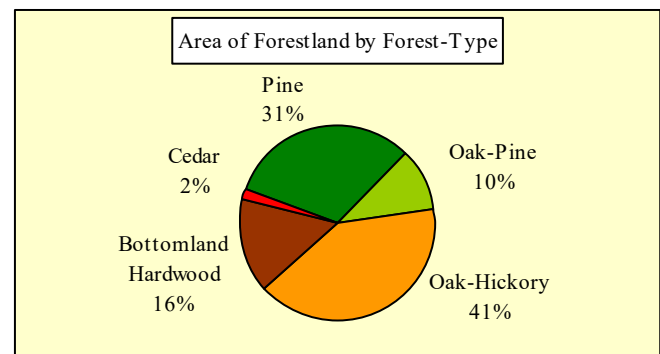
Forest Distribution

The Southwest, Ozark and Ouachita regions contain 88 percent of the forestland in the state. The most heavily forested County is Dallas (92%) and the least forested is Mississippi County (5%).



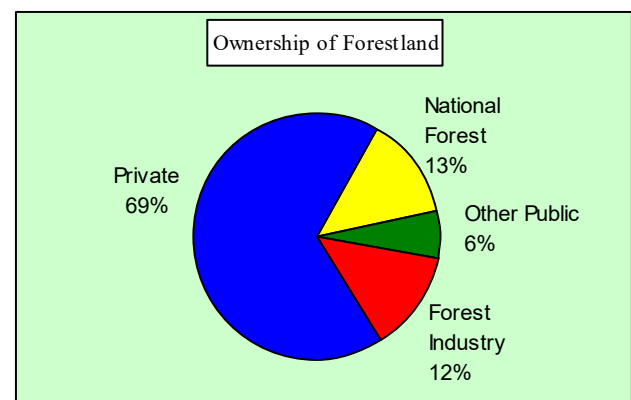
Forest-Type Composition

Most of the forest in the state is a hardwood timber type. Fifty-two percent of the pine forests are plantation.



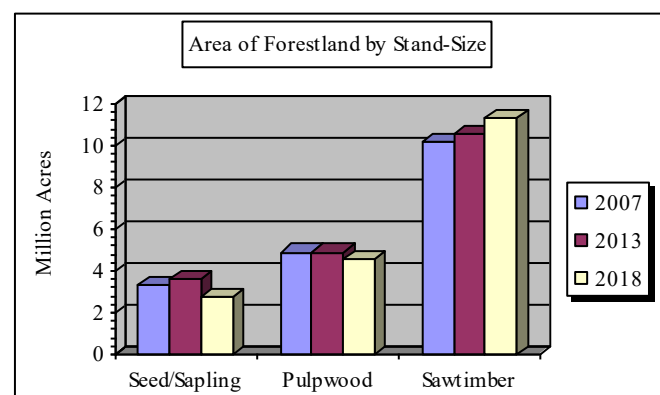
Ownership of the Forest

Arkansas contains the largest National Forest area in the South with 2.5 million acres within the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests.



Stand-Size Distribution

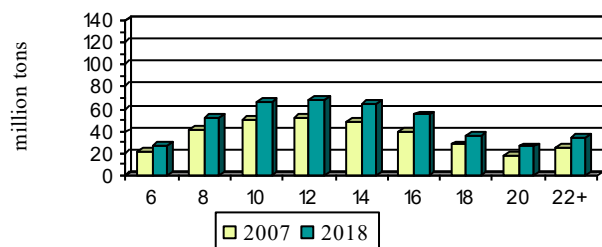
More than half of the forestland acres in the state are sawtimber stands.



Timber Volume

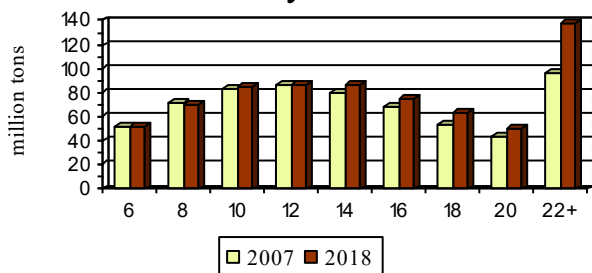
Pine volumes account for 38 percent of the state's total tree volume.

Pine Volume by Diameter Class



Hardwood volumes account for 58 percent of the state's total tree volume.

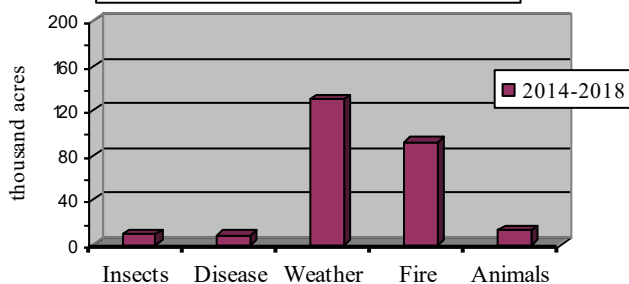
Hwd Volume by Diameter Class



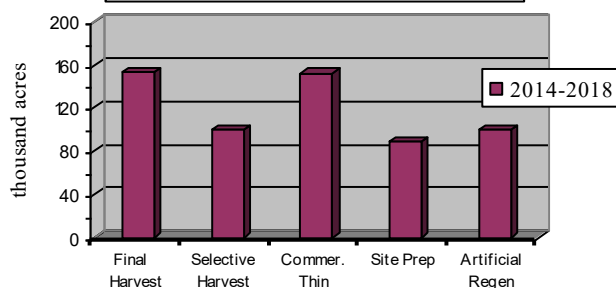
Disturbances

A Disturbance is an event which affects or kills at least 25% of the trees in an area. During the 2018 survey period, 85% of the annual weather disturbances occurred in hardwood forests, 52% of the fire disturbances occurred in pine or pine/oak.

Average Annual Forestland Disturbance



Average Annual Silvicultural Activities

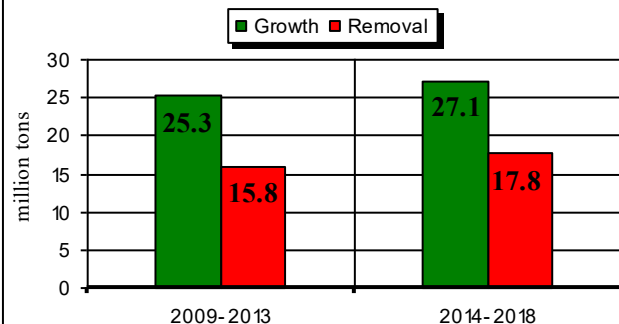


Growth and Removal

The 2018 survey period has shown an average annual increase in Pine timber growth and a decrease in removals. The growth/drain ratio is 1.5 for pine.

Average Annual Growth and Removal on Forestland

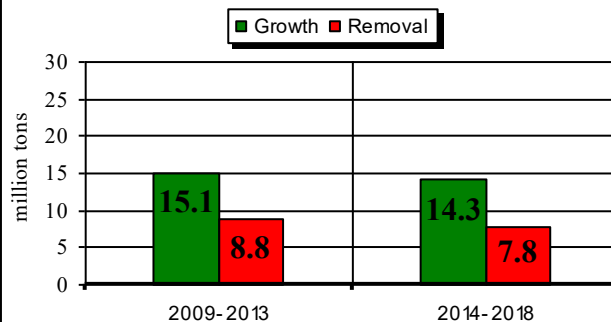
Pine



The volume figures from the survey shows hardwood timber is growing faster than it is being removed. The growth/drain ratio is 1.8 for hardwood.

Average Annual Growth and Removal on Forestland

Hardwood



For more information contact:

Brett Dawson
Public Information Manager
Arkansas Agriculture Dept.
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
brett.dawson@agriculture.arkansas.gov
Direct: (501) 219-6324
Mobile: (501) 313-6965
www.agriculture.arkansas.gov

ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURE
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Related Links:

Southern Research Station

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/srsfia/states/arkansas.shtml>

FIA Data and Tools

<https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/index.php>

SRS Publication Search

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